[Mr. T. Kumara Pillai.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): With respact to (*i*), was it not the practice before to put up the taluks under the farming system to auction?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No. In the case of big contracts it was not the practice invariably to put them up to public auction.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Was it not done in public auction in the Huzur Cutcherry by the Dewan himself?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Not in all cases.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I beg to know whether there was any Government notification regarding the sale of the three taluks held by Mr. Nadar for 1098 and 1099.

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I claim notice.

Tappers' Strike.

240. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the occasions on which the tappers struck work in the Arukutty and other circles?

(*b*) Have the District Superintendents of Police, Messrs. Padmanabhan Tampi and Gomatinayakam Pillai, reported to the Commissioner of Police the causes of the same, and has the Commissioner submitted a report to the Government in the matter?

(*c*) If the Commissioner of Police has submitted a report to the Government on the subject, will they be pleased to lay it on the table?

MR. S. PARAMESVARA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) In 1096 there was a strike of tappers in the Vaikam taluk.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The answer is in the negative. *Vide* also the answer to question No. 190 in the Proceedings of the Legislative Council, Vol. II.

Certain Works in the Pazhayar River.

241. MR. T. KUMARA PILLAI (*Eraniel* cum *Vilavankod*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether the late Chief Engineer Mr. Bastow and the late Excise Commissioner Mr. N. Raman Pillai had, as a result of their joint inspection, sent up a report to the Government stating that that portion of the Pazhayar river which runs through the salt pans is very narrow and that the river should be widened and brought to the total breadth of 1,000 feet?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to state their reasons for not sanctioning the works in accordance with this report based on expert opinion?

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(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether it has come to their knowledge that the loss of salt due to the last year's floods was, though occasioned by the cyclone, helped by the narrowness of the Pazhayar river near the salt pans?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The answer is in the affirmative.

(*b*) Mr. Bastow's proposal involved the acquisition of portions of existing salt factories at a prohibitive cost. Mr. Bastow did not give hydraulic particulars on which his opinion was based. So Mr. Jacob, his successor, who re-examined the question, suggested an alternative scheme. His proposal was for dismantling the mission dam in the Pazhayar and the draining and alignment of the deep water channel. Government adopted this alternative.

(*c*) Government have no such information.

Statement of Lands assigned to Depressed Classes.

242. MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): Will the Government be pleased to lay on the table a talukwar statement of the lands already assigned to the depressed classes at concessional rates?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): A statement* furnishing the information for three years from 1096 M. E. is laid on the table.

Qualification for Assistant Sanitary Officers.

243. MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Tovala*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state whether, at the time of the formation of the Sanitary Department and for some time thereafter, there was any understanding that Assistant Sanitary Officers should have passed some medical test?

(*b*) When was this rule dispensed with?

(*c*) What were the reasons for its discontinuance?

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): (*a*) The post of Assistant Sanitary Officers was created in 1902, *i. e.*, nearly seven years after the formation of the Sanitary Department. The Hospital Assistants' Examination was then prescribed as the medical qualification for the post.

(*b*) This rule was modified in 1905 when the Certificated Sanitary Inspectors' Test was prescribed as an alternative qualification.

(*c*) Because the work of itinerant medical relief which had been entrusted to the Sanitary Department was discontinued in 1905.

Kudivila for Royal Trees on Ayacut Lands.

244. MR. T. M. CHIDAMBARATANU PILLAI (*Kalkulam* cum *Tovala*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state the year up to which *kudivila* has been paid for the royal trees cut and removed through the Forest Department from *ayacut* lands?

* *Vide* appendix I—page 915.

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